



Longtime Pilot Fulfills 90th Birthday Dream

*Story originally appeared in Glasgow Courier, November 12, 2003
reprinted with permission. – Written by Kris Magstadt*

Growing up on an airport has its ups and downs – no puns intended! My memories include hours of sweeping hangars, pushing and pulling airplanes, answering the radio, learning to drive on the runway and popping tar bubbles. I remember 3 a.m. telephone calls, Dad rushing out to get the airplane ready for an ambulance trip, and sleeping in the back of the airplane on a family trip. My dad was committed to the Glasgow Airport, and it shaped our lives.

My dad, Vic Wokal, has a passion. His passion is flying. He has told me hundreds of stories and shown me hundreds of photographs – many of which I've seen hundreds of times (that's probably an exaggeration). Vic began his flying career in Bowman, N.D., in 1941 and in 1944 he and his brother, Joe built an airport there.

One of the best stories, however, happened on his 90th birthday, Oct. 3, 2003. While I was visiting my parents several weeks before his birthday, Dad told me a new story. It was one of him doing numerous loops in an airplane as a young man. He was so proud because he still had 2,000 feet left after these loops. Then, he said something that threw me for a loop. On his 90th birthday, he wanted to do one loop in an airplane for every decade of his life. I wasn't sure how to respond, but I knew that the combination of his passion for flying and his determination not to let his ailments hold him back would make this a reality. As I shared his desire to "loop it up," many couldn't believe that a 90-year-old man would want to do such a thing. Some even asked the question "what if ... ?" I just answered that Dad was always in heaven when he was flying!

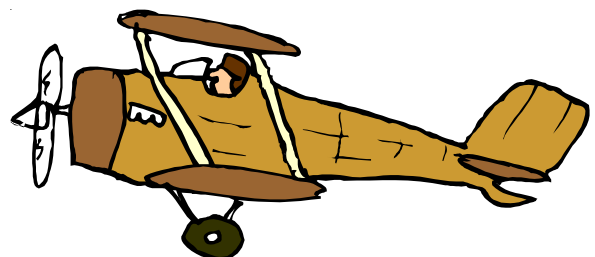
After searching for parachutes, a pilot to go with him, and an airplane to fly in, none of which were difficult to find – the moment finally arrived. It took us about 45 minutes to get Dad into Joe Etchart's open cockpit Great Lakes biplane, but after he was strapped in, off they went. Several planes followed them up to get photos and video of this grand event. Our family watched and cheered from the ground. One, two, three, we counted – and a couple of barrel rolls added in – seven, eight, nine. As they taxied back to the hangar, we could see that smile on his face. He was like a little kid who had just seen Santa Claus. "I'm just so glad I got to go flying on my birthday," he said.

My dad has done many good things for aviation and has many fond memories of people, places and airplanes. These times include the day the Glasgow Airport was named in his honor, and the day he and the Deaconess Hospital management made the decision to start Stat Air Ambulance. All of these great events and fond memories would not have happened if it weren't for his dream as a young child to fly. I admire my dad's passion for flight and appreciate all he has taught me about living life to its fullest. He truly is an inspiration for all those with dreams – they can become reality!



Photo courtesy of Kris Magstadt.

Vic Wokal pauses with Joe Etchart before climbing into Etchart's biplane for the birthday flight.



Administrator's Column

Deepest sympathy: is extended to the Newman family of Cut Bank and the Grode family of Ipswich, South Dakota on the loss of Bill, Ray and Lance Newman and Jessica Grode. The four lost their lives in an aircraft accident on New Years Day near Glasgow.

Many thanks to: the Aeronautics Division three search and rescue coordinators that were involved in this multi-district air search. Leif Torgerson of Cut Bank, Tim Dwyer of Havre, and Lanny Hanson of Glasgow did a superb job coordinating volunteer pilots and observers to assist. Extreme weather obstacles including poor visibility grounded many pilot volunteers for two days. On the third day visibility increased but pilots were faced with near record cold temperatures and wind chill of 40 degrees below zero. To all pilots, observers, fixed-base operators at the three locations, and everyone else that assisted by preparing food, donating food, answering phones and the many other tasks that are involved but not mentioned, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and everyone of you.

Appropriations on hold: With the passage of the 4-year Vision 100 reauthorization legislation and the many interesting concepts it provides in the AIP program, federal airport project dollars remain frozen in the absence of an appropriations bill for this year. We all eagerly await the appropriations legislation to be enacted. The appropriation has been rolled into an omnibus appropriation bill with six other appropriations and is hoped Congress will act upon this very soon after returning from the holiday recess. A continuing resolution that expires January 31 has funded the government until the omnibus bill is passed but did not grant temporary authority to issue AIP grants to airports

Proposed restricted area: In response to the establishment of a new restricted area within the Hays Military Operations Area (MOA) comments from the Aeronautics Division, Montana Pilots Association Recreational Airstrip Committee and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) have been sent to the FAA. Comments support: air ambulance operations and search

and rescue aircraft being provided immediate access to the airspace when necessary; the airspace being immediately released to the flying public when not active; a manned tower equipped with VHF capability offered to pilots operating in the area; charting of the tower frequency and controlling agency on the appropriate sectional; and an exclusion for the Cow Creek airstrip for a three nautical mile radius from the center of the airstrip extending upwards to 1500' AGL. As proposed the restriction would eliminate the availability of this airstrip to pilots during activation.

Sport Pilot Rule progresses: Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta signed off on the sport pilot/light-sport aircraft rulemaking package and forwarded it to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on December 23. "This is great news, as it completes an important step to make sport pilot/light-sport aircraft a reality," said EAA President Tom Poberezny. "My compliments to FAA and DOT for their hard work in getting this important task accomplished. EAA and the aviation community have been looking forward to this important announcement as the rulemaking package enters its final phase." The proposal would enable pilots to fly lightweight, low-performance aircraft with a driver's license in lieu of a medical certificate. OMB now has 90 days in which to review and return the package to the FAA, at which time it would be published in the Federal Register as a final rule.

FSS privatization: The FAA is seeking bids on a proposal to outsource the operations of the agency's network of Automated Flight Service Stations. Private contractors are asked to submit proposals to run a government-provided function. The government entity currently providing the service is also permitted to submit a proposal. FAA has operated flight service stations with government employees for decades. FSS personnel provide weather briefings, flight planning services, in-flight services, emergency services, flight data services, notices to airmen, enroute flight advisories, many service important to general aviation pilots. These services provide a critical safety function and must be provided by the government without fees to pilots.



Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation
Judy Martz, Governor
David A. Galt, Director

Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division
Telephone - (406) 444-2506
Fax - (406) 444-2519
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507

<http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/aeronautics/>

Debbie K. Alke, Administrator
Aeronautics Board
John Rabenberg, Chairman
Frank Bass, Member
Craig Denney, Member
Lanny Hanson, Member
Lonnie Leslie, Member
Chuck Manning, Member
Will Metz, Member
Kenneth Tolliver, Member
George Warner, Member

Montana and the Sky
is published monthly
in the interest of aviation in the
State of Montana.
Third Class postage paid at
Helena, Montana 59604
Subscription: \$5 per year

Editor: Patty Kautz

Calendar

January 21-23, 2004 – Aeronautics Board Meeting and Loan & Grant Review - Helena. For information phone (406) 444-2506.

January 26-27, 2004 – Association of Montana Aerial Applicators Convention & Trade Show. For further information contact Shelly Peterson (406) 247-3188.

January 30-February 1, 2004 – Winter Survival Clinic – Helena. For further information phone the Montana Aeronautics Division (406) 444-2506.

February 7, 2004 – Monthly fly-in breakfast, which will be held the 1st Saturday of each month through May 1, 2004 at Billings Logan International Airport in the EAA Chapter hangar located at the west end of the airport from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Sponsored by EAA Chapter 57 & South Central MPA members. For further information contact Larry Mayer at larry.mayer@lee.net.

February 7-8, 2004 – Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic – Helena. For further information phone Montana Aeronautics Division (406) 444-2506.

February 25-26, 2004 – 1st Annual Montana Aerospace Technology Conference. Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. For additional information contact: Linda Brander, Montana Department of Commerce, (406) 841-2749 or lbrander@state.mt.us.

March 4-6, 2004 – Montana Aviation Conference, Heritage Inn, Great Falls. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

March 11-13, 2004 - Women in Aviation International Conference, Reno Nevada. For more information phone (386) 226-7996 or visit the web site at www.wai.org.

June 12, 2004 – North Central Fly-In breakfast & Toy-Show, Havre Airport.

We were all saddened by the passing of longtime pilot and friend Al Jennings of Bigfork in July 2003. The Montana Pilots Association Flathead Hangar received a special note from Al's wife Ceal Jennings & family for their generous acts of kindness.

Ceal thanked them for their gift to Hospice in memory of Al. Ceal went on to say "With the help of family, friends and Hospice we were able to keep Al comfortable at home. He was always happy to participate as much as possible with the Montana Pilots Association. I'm sure he was smiling from Heaven's up above when the man who bought our beloved 170 flew it over the church at his funeral! Thank you Ceal Jennings."

Thanks to the Montana Pilots Association members who are always willing to go that extra mile.

There are still openings left for the SURRATT MEMORIAL WINTER SURVIVAL CLINIC to be offered on January 30-February 1, 2004. The course will be taught by acclaimed survival experts Skip Stoffel and Paul Green of Emergency Response International, Cashmere, Washington.

Registration will begin at 3:30 P.M. on January 30, and the Clinic will kick off at 4:00 P.M. in the National Guard Armory, 3330 Skyway Drive, Room 116 in Helena with classroom instruction.

The outdoor survival training exercise will be near the Lincoln Airport using the emergency preparedness skills learned to build a survival shelter. This exercise will begin at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday afternoon and continue until Sunday about noon.

The clinic is sponsored by the Montana Aeronautics Division and partially funded by the Surratt Memorial. There will be a \$10.00 registration fee for participants attending the entire clinic. For those attending only the classroom session there will be a \$5.00 registration fee. For further information contact Montana Aeronautics at (406) 444- 2506 or Email: jemacpherson@state.mt.us.

Aeronautics Mechanics Seminar & IA Renewal

The Montana Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce the 2004 Mechanics Seminar & IA renewal will once again be held in conjunction with this year's Montana Aviation conference in Great Falls MT.

The dates for the conference are March 4- 6, 2004. The Mechanics Seminar will be held on Friday March 5 and continue through Saturday March 6.

We will be offering six hours of training on Friday and a full eight hours of training on Saturday. This has worked out well in the past for those mechanics only wanting to attend on Saturday but still needing the training to update their IA for renewal.

Mechanics attending this year's seminar will be required to register for the Aviation Conference. The registration fee will be \$55.00. This allows you to attend all concurrent sessions, morning and afternoon coffee breaks with snacks, Friday night dinner dance and the Saturday luncheon. Make plans now to attend, to discuss and learn the latest in aircraft maintenance. Or if only attending the 8-hour Saturday session, a \$15.00 day pass may be obtained.

TENTATIVE SPEAKERS: Teledyne Continental Motors – Loren Lemen; Garrett Aviation – Gil Ewan; Engine Components Inc.- Roger Fuchs; Aces Propeller Balancing Systems - Steve Sennett; City Services – Breezy Brulison; Workley Aircraft & Maintenance Inc.-Fred Workley; Anvil Corp. Non Destructive Inspection – Alex Bagarry; Hartzell Propellers – Sam Gascho; American Bonanza Society-Neil Pobanz; Superior Air Parts-Knick Curtis; Bell Helicopters-Jim Szymanski; Cleveland Wheels & Brakes-Vernon Rodgers; Steve Jones & Staff – Helena FSDO.

2004 Conference – Something for Everyone

Great Falls played host to the first annual aviation conference in 1985, and it proved to be a first rate event that started the ball rolling for “the best” in “Aviation Conferences”. This year is sure to be another extraordinary occasion with exciting luncheon and concurrent session speakers, a FAA certified Mechanic Refresher seminar, a college accredited Teacher Workshop session, an aviation career panel for students & teachers, a sold out exhibit hall, an awesome display of aircraft at Holman Aviation (such as Bob Hoovers old P-51!!), an airport tour featuring Flight Service, Air National Guard & Great Falls International Airport. Friday evening come prepared for some great entertainment as Ringling Five entertain us all at a dinner/dance held in the airport’s new facilities.

Thursday evening awards dinner will feature Susan Edsall author of *“Into the Blue”* a book on her family’s efforts to help her father Wayne Edsall of Bozeman return to the skies following a stroke. Wayne had bypass surgery in March 2000 and four days after surgery, a stroke damaged the left side of his brain, leaving him unable to speak, count or read. His license was reinstated nearly a year to the day after he had his stroke. Propelled by her father’s recovery and by writing the book, Susan started taking flying lessons. Susan’s inspirational story is something you won’t want to miss. She will also conduct a few concurrent sessions during the conference for those of you who can’t make Thursday evenings dinner.

Friday’s lunch will feature Mike Lavelle who has over 40 years of aviation industry experience in aircraft flight and maintenance operations. Eleven of those years were with the Cessna Aircraft Company of Wichita Kansas. The last 20 years Mike has worked with Boeing Company, where he is today as a Manager in the F/A-22 Program. Mike is a flight and ground instructor, as well as a certified Airframe & Powerplant Mechanic. Mike’s presentation *“100 Years Before The Wrights”* will survey those experiments, events

and aircraft that made direct contribution to the field of aeronautics and to the Wright’s ultimate success, controlled power flight at Kitty Hawk on December 17, 1903. In addition Mr. Lavelle’s presentation discusses the Wright Brothers personality; approach and flying machines the brothers used to successfully achieve their flight. Mr. Lavelle will also conduct a concurrent session during the conference on the history of the Cessna aircraft company.

On Friday a special spouse/guest program will be held with a tour of Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, lunch and a tour of the Russell Museum. The fee for this program is \$20 and space is limited so be sure and get your registrations in early.

For those of you flying in both Holman Aviation and Front Range Aviation will be offering fuel discounts of \$0.15 per gallon for fuel purchases made during the conference. (Just ask for the conference discount).

Please complete the registration form on page 5 and call the Heritage Inn at (406) 761-1900 or 1-800-548-8256 for a special conference rate of \$73 plus tax or the Heritage Inn Express at 1-800-362-4842 for a conference rate of \$55 plus tax.



Temporary Flight Restrictions

The 2003 summer forest fire season, and the numerous TFR’s associated with them, is over. At one point, there were 30 TFR’s in effect for Montana making it difficult for many VFR pilots, and even some IFR pilots, to get across our state, especially the western portions.

Although the fire TFR’s are unlikely to be seen again until next summer, pilots still need to be cautioned about airspace restrictions and “special” Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs). When you call Great Falls AFSS you are advised that there is a security information alert. This alert advises there are still national NOTAMs out dealing with loitering around power plants, refineries, etc. Additionally, there is added caution about staying away from large assemblies of people, such as that found at certain college football games or professional sporting events such as NFL or major league baseball stadiums.

Perhaps the most prevalent airspace restrictions during the past couple of years have been what is termed “VIP movement”. These VIP NOTAMs restrict airspace during times the president, vice president, or other designated officials are arriving or departing an airport and/or speaking at a major function. These NOTAMs are expected to increase as the election year approaches. For presidential movement, a major emphasis is placed on the 10 and 30-mile radius arc. The 30-mile arc requires 2-way communication with ATC and several other requirements. The 10-mile arc is much more restrictive. Specific details on TFR’s for VIP movement can be obtained from any AFSS. Additionally, the AOPA web site has a link that specifically deals with know VIP NOTAMs. Their web address is: www.aopa.org.

An FAA site that lists which college and professional sports stadiums/events are impacted by restrictions can be found at: www2.faa.gov/ats/ata/waiver/stadiums.cfm.



Hank Galpin &
Ray Sanders
"National Air Tour"



"An Evening
With Bob
Hoover"



Mark your
Calendar Now..



Mike Lavelle
"100 Years Before
the Wrights"

Montana Aviation Conference
March 4-6, 2004
Best Western Heritage Inn -
Great Falls - (406) 761-1900 or
1-800-548-8256



Susan Edsall "Into the
Blue: A Father's Flight & A
Daughter's Return"

Mail to:
Montana Aeronautics Division
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507

MONTANA AVIATION CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

NAMES OF PARTICIPANT(S) (for name tags) _____

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE ZIP & PHONE _____

Your Organization Affiliation:
(choose one only for name tag)

MPA____ MATA____ MFF____
MAMA____ 99S____ MAAA____
EAA____ AMAA____ CAP____
MSPA____ OTHER_____

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING RESERVATIONS

NOTE: Meal tickets must be purchased 48 hours in advance.

TAKEOFF TO LANDING PACKAGE (INCLUDES REGS. & ALL MEALS)

_____ @ \$120/PERSON \$ _____

_____ @ \$230/PERSON/SPOUSE \$ _____

_____ @ *\$240/PERSON/SPOUSE/GUEST TOUR TICKET

*Includes 1-Friday Lunch ticket & 1-Spouse/Guest Tour ticket

-OR- REG. FEE _____ @ \$55/PERSON \$ _____

_____ @ \$90/FAMILY \$ _____

Thursday Luncheon _____ @ \$12 \$ _____

Thursday Dinner _____ @ \$20 \$ _____

Friday Luncheon _____ @ \$12 \$ _____

Friday Spouse/Guest Tour _____ @ \$20 \$ _____

**Friday Dinner/Dance _____ @ FREE \$ FREE

**Saturday Luncheon _____ @ FREE \$ FREE

Saturday Banquet _____ @ \$30 \$ _____

****Please indicate if you will attend the free Friday dinner/dance & free Saturday luncheon with number of tickets required – Person/Spouse & Family rate includes 2 dinner/dance & 2 Saturday lunch tickets. Additional tickets may be purchased - \$20 dinner/dance & \$10 Saturday lunch. To assure adequate meal count if no indication is made no tickets will be reserved.**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION**

TOTAL: \$ _____

Scholarship Opportunities

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations that believe in promoting aviation by offering monetary assistance to qualified persons. The Aeronautics Division assists in administering some of these scholarships and encourages participation. These scholarships are offered to Montanans to help defray costs of education (i.e., flight instruction, A&P, etc.) Awarding of the scholarships will be based on a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience, if any, and any outstanding achievements. Letters of application should be sent to Montana Aeronautics Division, PO Box 5178, Helena, MT 59604 or call (406) 444-2506 for further information. Scholarships will be presented during the 2004 Montana Aviation Conference in Great Falls. **Letters must be postmarked on or before January 30, 2004.**

- ❖ **A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship** – An anonymous donor established the first \$250 scholarship in 1993 and a second donor offered another \$250 scholarship in 1997.
- ❖ **Aviation Appreciation Scholarship** – Jeff Morrison, retired former owner of Morrison Flying Service in Helena has established the \$300 scholarship as a token of appreciation to the aviation community.
- ❖ **Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship** – MAAA offers this \$500 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction.
- ❖ **Parrott Family Scholarship** – The Parrott Family offers this \$1,000 scholarship to be used over a one-year period for pilot training programs for students enrolled in the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) aviation program. The funds may be used for tuition in the RMC aviation program, and/or flight training expenses leading to a Private, Commercial, or Flight Instructor Certificate, and may include Instrument and Multiengine simulator training, and the purchase of aviation related materials and related supplies.
- ❖ **AOM Flight Training Scholarship** – AOM has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.
- ❖ **Montana Pilots Association Junior Pilot Award** – This recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must have soloed and be actively involved in flight training. This is a \$500 scholarship.
- ❖ **Montana Pilots Association Flight Training Award** – This \$500 scholarship is open to a person who has considerable interest in aviation. The scholarship is to be used for flight training.
- ❖ **Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship** – This \$250 scholarship is awarded to a first generation pilot to assist with flight training. This scholarship is designed to assist a person who has a love of aviation, yet had limited exposure to aviation, someone from a non-aviation background/family.
- ❖ **Montana 99's Flight Scholarship** – This \$400 scholarship is to be used towards earning a private pilots certificate. The applicant must be female and obtained her medical certificate and student pilot certificate. The training must be completed in Montana and the license obtained within two years. Send a one-page letter stating your reasons for wishing to be a pilot, financial need, and your financial plan for completing the rating. Also send one letter of reference and a copy of your current medical certificate.

CAP Cadet Earns Amelia Earhart Award

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Jordan T. Schatz has successfully completed all program requirements for CAP's *Amelia Earhart Aerospace Education Award*. Brenda and Rick Schatz are the proud parents of the 18-year-old cadet who has been enrolled in the CAP cadet program at Beartooth Composite Squadron in Billings since July of 2000, along with his younger brother Cadet Jedrick D. Schatz. CAP is the officially recognized civilian volunteer Auxiliary of the United States Air Force and CAP's cadet program is the equivalent of high school level Air Force Junior ROTC.

Cadet Schatz attended NASA Space Camp in 2001 with a scholarship, which he earned through the CAP cadet program. He earned the NRA's Distinguished Expert Marksmanship Medal during a rifle marksmanship training program held especially for CAP cadets at the Yellowstone Rifle Club in 2002. He served as the Cadet Deputy Commander at the Montana-Wyoming Joint CAP Cadet Summer Encampment in 2003 at Fort Harrison in Helena. He also attended CAP's Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Leadership School held at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado Springs in 2003. He has also served on the cadet staff at Beartooth Composite Squadron in the cadet leadership officer and cadet flight commander positions. And Cadet Schatz earned Air Force Junior ROTC credit in 2002 by earning the General Billy Mitchell Aerospace Education Award, which enables him to enter the United States Air Force at an advanced grade level.

Since earning the Earhart Award, Cadet Schatz has been promoted to the grade of cadet captain and he is now also eligible to participate in CAP's *International Air Cadet Exchange* (IACE) program, which is an all expense paid international exchange program between the United States and eighteen participating nations. Cadet Schatz is home schooled by his parents and he is presently in the equivalent of his senior year of high school. We congratulate him on his outstanding achievements.

Centennial of Flight Celebrations

In the Bozeman area sixty-two aircraft involving more than one hundred-fifty participants took to the VFR skies from Gallatin Field, Montana on December 17, 2003 to commemorate the centennial of the Wright Brothers historic first manned, powered flight. The flight strung out nose to tail for twenty-five miles, and flew over five communities, nine rural schools, and eight Bozeman schools. Volunteer pilots also provided rides to a group of children from Hawthorne Elementary School who were winners of a paper airplane distance flying contest. The variety of aircraft, including many beautifully restored vintage machines, gave everyone a great visual thrill and served to emphasize the debt owed to the early flight pioneers. Recovery was followed by a debriefing, lunch picnic, a cheer for the Wright Brothers, and TV interviews.

Helena area pilots and airmen elected to celebrate the 100 anniversary flight in the most personal and relevant way in which they could, by piloting over thirty individual aircraft in the cool morning air in formation, directly over the Montana State Capital. The very diverse and colorful aircraft were flown in formations of three, at three different altitudes. The awe inspiring and one-of-a-kind flight took place 100 years to the minute the Wright Brothers made their historic jump. Pilot experience ranged from retired



Lt. Governor Ohs, Debbie Alke & Jim Greil before the historical flight.



Nigel Davis, Lt. Governor Ohs, Bill Burkland and Joe Roberts enjoyed the celebration after the flights at Vetter Aviation.

airline captains to newly certified private pilots. In addition, several passengers also enjoyed the experience, including friends and family, the media and even the Lieutenant Governor who flew in the Aeronautics Divisions Bonanza with Jim Greil at the controls. Upon completion of the flight, it was clear from the elated smiles and numerous stories generated by the endeavor, that this was truly a unique and probably never to be repeated event. Many thanks to the Vigilante Hangar of the Montana Pilots Association, particularly, Nigel Davis, Bill Burkland and Joe Roberts for the idea and for their efforts in planning and coordinating the event. Also thanks to Rosemarie and Brent Vetter for their assistance and hospitality.

I'm sure these are just a few of the celebrations that took place on December 17, 2003, congratulations to all who took part in this most important event. As German hang glider engineer Otto Lilienthal said. "To invent an airplane ... is nothing. To build an airplane ... is something. But to fly ... is everything."

Gallatin Field Sets Passenger Boarding Record

Passenger boardings at Gallatin Field increased 2.8% in 2003 as a record 282,164 passengers boarded airline flights. This marks 9 consecutive years of increased boardings. Gallatin Field is the second busiest airport in Montana based on passenger boardings.

Passenger boardings by airline were as follows: Northwest-98,259; Delta-68,378; United Express-49,865; Delta Connection-32,843; Horizon-31,480; Chartered airline flights-1,339.

Year 2003 Highlights at Gallatin Field: Paid off all remaining bonds and became debt free for the first time since 1959. Received a perfect certification audit by the Federal Aviation Administration. Resurfaced the main air carrier runway with minimal impact on boardings and tower operations. Purchased 222 acres of land adjacent to Gallatin Field. Began construction on a 5,200 square foot addition to the airline terminal building. Added 4 new privately owned and constructed general aviation hangars. The Air Traffic Control Tower at Gallatin Field handled a record 65,410 aircraft operations. Gallatin Field is served by five airlines with 16 daily departures to six hub cities and is home to over 200 privately owned aircraft. Over 400 people are employed by the 28 entities with offices at Gallatin Field.

Gallatin Field serves, Bozeman, Big Sky, Southwest Montana and Yellowstone National Park.



Cut Bank International would like to announce the addition of a new aviation business to Glacier County and Montana. Iron Horse Aviation, an aircraft repair and maintenance facility opened its doors for business on December 17th. The facility is

owned and operated by A&P I A Ted Vanmetter. The business will be operating out of the Maintenance Hangar at the Cut Bank Airport. All plane owners are invited to stop and talk to Ted about all your maintenance, repair and restoration needs.

The Department of Transportation attempts to provide reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For further information call (406)444-2506 or TDD (406)444-7696.

Twenty-nine hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,131. This includes \$200 for production, \$750 for postage and \$181 for printing.

Watch for more information on the upcoming Montana Aviation Conference in next months newsletter - remember those who preregister are eligible for a special drawing (registration form on page 5). Phone (406) 444-2506 for further information.

Airport Receives Grant

The Helena Regional Airport has received a \$1.2 million grant to pay for installation of new security equipment.

Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., who announced the award from the Transportation and Security Administration, said the planned airport terminal security improvements will bring the Helena airport closer to achieving its goals.

He said the grant will help in keeping the traveling public and the airport facility "ahead of those who wish to do us harm (terrorists)."

Airport Manager Ron Mercer said the improvements should be operational in about a year.

The grant money will be used to purchase and install sensors to detect intruders on airport property.



PO Box 200507
Helena, Montana 59620-0507

January, 2004

Pre-Sort Standard
US Postage Paid
Helena, MT 59620
Permit No. 141